



## The World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP) Conference Cities and Migration: Leveraging Municipal Finance for Urban Resilience and Local Development

Hotel Barceló, Salon Andalucía  
Málaga (Spain), 10 April 2018

### Background

Migration is a global phenomenon and today's world is witnessing an "unprecedented level of human mobility."<sup>1</sup> Migration offers both opportunities and challenges for both migrants and host communities. Local governments play a significant role in addressing the root causes of migration and cities are playing an increasing role in hosting migrants. In the most recent report of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Migration, it is recommended that cities and local governments be given power and resources to manage migration and greater diversity<sup>2</sup>.

The imperative to achieve sustainable development and act on this priority means that strengthening municipal finance is a global development imperative. Specifically, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda commits to fully engage local authorities in the implementation of its global framework and promotes international cooperation "to strengthen capacities of municipalities and other local authorities."<sup>3</sup> However, how to make strategic urban plans and long-term investments in response to the vulnerable groups' needs, particularly for migrants, and in support of inclusive and sustainable local development, are among the most significant challenges cities are facing across the globe, especially those in the least developed countries (LDCs).

The World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP) is created to support cooperation among cities and develop a framework for long-term cooperation between urban leaders and make cities more resilient and sustainable. In the last decade, WACAP has played an important part in supporting those exchanges mainly through conferences. Currently, there are more than 900 municipalities in the network. As part of

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2016). New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

<sup>2</sup> Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Migration (A/71/728).

<sup>3</sup> United Nations (2015). Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

the UNCDF Municipal Investment Finance (MIF) Program, WACAP will bring to the program a new dimension of North-South Cooperation and South-South Cooperation.

In this context, UNCDF, in collaboration with the Local Government of Malaga, will convene the Conference on Migration and Municipal Finance under the umbrella of WACAP. The event will bring together a diverse network of stakeholders with substantive experience in this area including mayors, NGOs, practitioners, development banks and other development partners to share knowledge, exchange ideas and explore potential strategies to handle migration as a reality and build inclusive and resilient cities.

## Objectives

The WACAP Conference on Cities and Migration aims to provide a platform for mayors and practitioners in this field to share experiences and innovative solutions. The objectives are to:

- Establish the network of cities, experts and practitioners in the migration area, exchange challenges and solutions on migration issues on the ground.
- Share best practices and lessons learned from different cities and other stakeholders on 1) understanding the migrants' needs and identifying the outreach strategy; 2) innovative city planning and urban governance with a focus on vulnerable groups exclusion issues; 3) financing and investing in migrant inclusion processes and local development with tailored financial instruments.
- Explore partnership opportunities within the WACAP network among main stakeholders (local governments, NGOs, financing institutions and other development partners) to improve inclusiveness and resilience of cities.

This conference will have three main outcomes:

- The development of a community of practice of cities from the North and the South to exchange on the migrant population and better understand their reality. One of the main objectives of this network is to develop an outreach strategy and exchange planning and financial tools for migrant inclusion.
- Develop a program to pilot and experiment innovative solutions to identify and support strategic infrastructures that can facilitate the access of health, education and housing for migrants.
- Develop a program to develop the cooperation between the diaspora and development and commercial banks to invest remittances in local development.
- Develop a program to document and extend the existing initial initiatives on local economic development and access to finance in the Sahel.

## Agenda

9.00 am – 9.20 am	<b>Opening</b>
	<p><b>Opening remarks</b>  <b>Introduction on the WACAP concept, setting the agenda for the day</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. David Jackson, Director, Local Development Finance, UNCDF</li> <li>• Mr. Mario Garcés, Secretary of State for Social Services and Equality of Spain</li> <li>• Mr. Francisco de la Torre, Mayor of Málaga</li> </ul> <p><b>Keynote speeches: The importance of migration issues and municipal finance</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Mpho Parks Tau, President, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)</li> </ul>
9.20 am – 9.40 am	<b>Special Conference</b>
	<p><b>Presentation on global migration issues with a focus on the West/North Africa – Europe route (trend, urban challenges, social and economic integration, financing, etc.) (TBC)</b></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Maria Jesús Herrera, Head of International Organization for Migration (IOM) Spain</li> </ul>
9.45 am – 11.45 am	<b>Roundtable Discussion 1</b> <i>Understanding the migrants' needs: experience from local governments</i>
	<p><b>Context/Challenges</b></p> <p>According to the World Economic Forum, currently there are approximately 258 million international migrants. On the one hand, migrants contribute to economic growth and innovation in the host society; on the other, discrimination against immigrants on the basis of one's socio-economic, cultural or religious background still exists, which may lead to violence and insecurity of the society if not properly managed. In order to migrants a better framework of integration into the host society, we have to understand who they are, why they migrate and what are their specific needs to be able to participate to the city life, to benefit from basic services and contribute to the sustainable development at local level. Additionally, since migration is a global phenomenon, the cities on the same migration route could collaborate with each other and develop a coherent plan for migration issues.</p> <p><b>Questions for discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is your city a migrant departure or transit or receiving city?</li> <li>• For receiving cities, what are the demographics and needs of immigrants in your city (e.g. basic information, origin country, how</li> </ul>

	<p>they are organized, migration path, reasons for migration)? How does your city collect the data? Is migration an important item on the city development agenda? What are some of the initiatives?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For departure cities, which countries/regions do emigrants usually move to? Why do they emigrate? Does the emigrant population pose any social issues? Is there any city plan to keep in contact with them?</li> <li>• For transit cities, where are the migrants from and where are they going? Why do they choose your city as a transit? How long do they usually stay? What kind of support do they need most? Does your city have any initiative to provide the support?</li> <li>• What is your city’s strategy to reach out to migrants? What communication tools do you use?</li> <li>• How can we develop a coherent plan that facilitates the migration process and better supports migrants? How can cities collaborate under the World Alliance of Cities against Poverty?</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Francisco de la Torre, Mayor of Malaga (Spain)</li> <li>• Mr. Mohammed Boudra, Mayor of Al Hoceima (Morocco), ARLEM Co-president and President of the Moroccan association of municipalities</li> <li>• Mr. Mohamed Anacko, Chairman of Regional Council of Agadez (Niger)</li> <li>• Mr. Médoune Dieng, Conseiller Municipal, Saint-Louis (Senegal)</li> <li>• Mr. Abraham Akpala Abishaï, Mayor of Djougou (Benin)</li> <li>• Mrs. Carola Gunnarsson, Mayor of Sala (Sweden)</li> <li>• Mr. Carlos Martínez Mínguez, Mayor of Soria (Spain), Vice President of Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)</li> <li>• Mr. Mohamed Idaomar, Mayor of Tétouan (Morocco) and President of Medcities</li> <li>• Mr. Abdoulaye Thimbo, Mayor of Pikine (Senegal)</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG</li> </ul>
11.45 am – 12.00 am	Coffee break
12.00 pm – 2.00 pm	<p><b>Roundtable Discussion 2</b></p> <p><i>Innovative urban planning for inclusive cities: how can governments and NGOs collaborate for better access to health, education and housing?</i></p>
	<p><b>Context/Challenges</b></p> <p>Despite different contexts in origin, transit and destination cities, they all have to answer the ultimate question: how to re-build a social contract that includes vulnerable groups in the communities? Migration brings in the cities a new population, increases the diversity and connects those cities together. Cities should take their own initiatives to manage migration at the local level and interact with migrants. However, it is always challenging for migrants to access basic services and infrastructure. This requires innovative forms of</p>

	<p>governance and planning through collaboration between the civil society and local authorities.</p> <p><b>Questions for discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the challenges for migrant integration, particularly their access to health, education and housing?</li> <li>• How does your organization address them (e.g. government programmes and NGO initiatives)? Any useful tools or digital solutions?</li> <li>• How can government integrate migration issues into the city development plan?</li> <li>• Is there any project targeting women migrants? How can we better include and empower women migrants in the host society?</li> <li>• How can governments and NGOs collaborate on migrant inclusion, especially access to jobs and basic services?</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. José María Vera, General Director, Oxfam Intermón Spain</li> <li>• Mr. Xavier Tiana Casablancas, Secretary General, MEDICITIES</li> <li>• Mr. Cédric Audebert, Director, Migrinter</li> <li>• Dr. Boulaye KEITA, Enseignant-Chercheur, Conseiller Technique au Ministère des Maliens de l'Extérieur</li> <li>• Ms. Ana Feder, Project Manager for the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration (MC2CM) project, International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)</li> <li>• Mr. José Ángel Narváez Bueno, Chancellor of Malaga University</li> <li>• Mr. Antonio Zurita Contreras, General Director of International Action and Global Citizenship, City of Madrid (Spain)</li> <li>• Mr. Christophe Lobry-Boulanger, Head of Migration (Europe), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Bachir Kanoute, Executive Coordinator, Enda Écopop</li> </ul>
2.00 pm – 3.00 pm	Lunch
3.00 pm – 5.00 pm	<p><b>Roundtable Discussion 3</b></p> <p><i>Investing in a more inclusive and resilient society: exploring blended finance solutions and financial instruments</i></p>
	<p><b>Context/Challenges</b></p> <p>Migration is an inevitable phenomenon globally and it has positive impact in knowledge and skills exchange as well as diversity in the society. But local development is also a global priority as it directly contributes to the achievement of SDGs, which requires labor and skills. As one of the most important reasons for migration is to access better economic opportunities, origin cities can actually attract people to stay by providing an enabling environment for local economic development, leading among others to more job creation. Yet financial instruments for local economic development are to be explored.</p>

	<p><b>Questions for discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can globalization create local economic opportunities? What are the obstacles to financial access for young entrepreneurs in LDCs?</li> <li>• What are the financial gaps to promote local economic development in secondary cities in the Sahel?</li> <li>• What financial tools can cities use to better access development finance?</li> <li>• How can diaspora funds be leveraged into local development projects and migration initiatives? What are some possible solutions?</li> <li>• How can the international community support local economic development?</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Elena Masi, Project Manager, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation</li> <li>• Mr. Yohann Ghaigneau, Senior Mandate Management Officer for Development and Impact Finance, European Investment Bank</li> <li>• Ms. Kirsten Offermanns, Senior Sector Economist Urban Development, KfW Development Bank</li> <li>• Ms. Ayse Asya, Ambassador (Migration and Development &amp; Coordination with International Organizations), Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)</li> <li>• Ms. Blanca Moreno-Dodson, Director, Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)</li> <li>• Ms. Stella Opoku Owusu, Deputy Director, African Foundation for Development (AFFORD)</li> <li>• Mr. Harouna Ouélogo, Mayor of Tenkodogo (Burkina Faso)</li> <li>• Mr. Ángel Pes, President of the Spanish network of the United Nations Global Compact and Deputy Director of Caixabank</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambassador Jean-Francis Regis Zinsou, Former Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations</li> </ul>
5.00 pm – 5.15 pm	<b>Coffee Break</b>
5.15 pm – 5:45 pm	<b>Summary &amp; Closing</b>
	<p><b>Summary of the Conference</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Christel Alvergne, Regional Technical Advisor, UNCDF</li> <li>• Mr. Julio Andrade Ruiz, Director of CIFAL Malaga-UNITAR and Technical Director for Relations with International Organizations of the City of Malaga</li> </ul> <p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Judith Karl, Executive Secretary, UNCDF</li></ul>
8.45 pm	<b>Pick up in the lobby of Hotel Barceló and transfer to the Museo del Automóvil of Málaga (Gala dinner venue)</b>
9.00 pm – 11.00 pm	<b>Gala Dinner at the Museo del Automóvil</b>
11.00 pm	<b>Transfer to Hotel Barceló</b>

## \*RATIONALE OF WACAP

WACAP is designed to create a framework for knowledge sharing and experience exchange to help urban actors to deal with migration issues in a more strategic and resilient manner. It provides a platform to discuss useful instruments and tools for local actors to better understand and take migration as a development opportunity.

Essentially, WACAP will build on current and previous experiences of cities on decentralized cooperation as well as local initiatives to accompany international migration. For instance, Malaga has already established partnerships with cities from the South such as Tripoli (Lebanon) and Chefchaouen (Morocco). This includes decentralized cooperation around urban planning and management as well as the use of ITC for delivery of services to citizens. This experience can help to reinforce local resilience and build on the importance of communities to include the *"New Citizens"* and avoid conflicts and extremism. Similarly, the City of Rotterdam maintains strong partnerships with cities where most of migrants in Rotterdam come from, including Turkey, Morocco, Suriname, the Netherlands Antilles and Cabo Verde.

Migration is a global phenomenon and its roots are urban. While there are recurrent summits bringing national leaders around the world and focusing on improving policy coherence, the voice of local leaders is usually timid. Nevertheless, mayors, local representatives and local population are at the frontline. Cities, mainly intermediate cities, share this common new trend but they have to deal with them in different contexts. On the one hand, it is critical to analyze the similar characteristics of these cities and consider how to better connect each other; on the other, different contexts of the departure, transit and receiving cities need to be taken consideration.

One of the world's most significant migration phenomena is the Trans-Saharan route from the Sahel to Spain through Morocco. While the Spanish cities, Moroccan cities and Sahel cities are on the same path and linked in the same dynamic, their local contexts are different. In Sahelian cities, persistent poverty, lack of economic opportunities, climate change and increased desertification drive young people to either radical behavior or migration. Those cities face both arrival of migrants coming from the South of West Africa as well as a high level of poverty and lack of basic services. However, Moroccan cities face the arrival of a large male population with different culture, lack of legal status and vulnerability to exploitation. Moreover, in the industries where migrants can find a job more easily, such as agriculture, construction and fishery, the integration process is often difficult and local authorities are often confronted with violence issues. The integration of migrants in Spanish cities is faced differently. Mediterranean cities like Malaga have a long period experience in this field, working on Conviviality programs, promoting cultural diversity and developing prevention of violent radicalization strategies.

However, those cities all have to deal with the same issue: how to re-build a social contract that includes vulnerable groups in the communities reinforcing their identity. Migration brings in the cities a new population, increases the diversity and connects those cities together. Cities should take their own initiatives to manage migration at the local level and interact with migrants. Migrants also play a key role in building resilience in origin cities by transferring funds to their communities. Their role in local economic development stands on both sides, in origin and destination towns. Nevertheless, migration is not taken into consideration in most of the local plans and policies. At the same time, there are also limited city networks exchanging on the existing tolls across migratory corridors.